Khurda Road Bolangir Project

384. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that construction of Khurda Road-Bolangir rail project is moving at a snail's pace which has triggered resentment among the local public;

(b) whether this project was sanctioned in 1994-95; and;

(c) if so, what is holding its speedy execution and what is the time-frame within which it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work of construction of Khurda Road-Bolangir new line project, included in the Railway Budget in 1994-95, is being progressed as per the operational priority of the project and the availability of resources. The Final Location Survey has been completed. Land has been acquired partially. Earthwork and bridgeworks have been taken up from Km. 0.00 (Khurda end) to Km. 36.00 of the project length. The budget outlay for the project has been increased substantially from Rs. 10 crore during 2005-06 to Rs. 23.00 crore during 2006-07 to speed up the progress of work during the year. No target date of completion of the project has yet been fixed.

HIV infected railway employees

385. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large percentage of both the Western and Central Railway employees of Mumbai Division have been afflicted by the HIV-virus.

(b) if so, what is the percentage thereof;

(c) which specific section/class of employees in Railways, is infected by this dreaded disease; and

(d) if so, what steps his Ministry has taken in this regard, so far?